

**REVISION OF EOSR – Revised final date of comments  
received and additional supporting document**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
June 11, 2003

ITEM: 17

SUBJECT: REVISION OF NPDES PERMIT MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM: CITY OF SAN DIEGO E.W. BLOM POINT LOMA METROPOLITAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN THROUGH THE POINT LOMA OCEAN OUTFALL. (TENTATIVE ADDENDUM NO. 1 TO ORDER NO. R9-2002-0025, NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0107409) (*David Hanson*)

PURPOSE: To consider modifications to the monitoring and reporting program (MRP) associated with the NPDES permit for the City of San Diego's E.W. Blom Point Loma Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant (PLMWTP) discharge through the Point Loma Ocean Outfall (PLOO). If adopted, this addendum would modify the MRP to incorporate recommendations of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project's (SCCWRP) *Model Monitoring Program for Large Ocean Discharges in Southern California* (hereinafter referred to as the *Model Monitoring Program*).

PUBLIC NOTICE: A newspaper notice was published in the San Diego Union-Tribune on May 9, 2003. Copies of tentative Addendum No. 1 were mailed on May 9, 2003 to the discharger and all known interested parties and agencies. These actions served as the 30-day official public notification for this action, as required by Title 40, section 124.10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

DISCUSSION: During adoption of Order No. R9-2002-0025 at its April 10, 2002 meeting, this Regional Board indicated that the MRP would be modified at a later date to incorporate recommendations of the *Model Monitoring Program* that was released by SCCWRP in March 2002. Since that time, several meetings between the City, USEPA, SCCWRP, and Regional Board have been held in development of the modifications contained in Addendum No. 1, which, if adopted, would revise and reorganize the MRP into core

monitoring, regional monitoring, and special studies according to the framework recommended by the *Model Monitoring Program*.

Major changes from the current MRP are summarized below. The changes to the MRP include reductions in the overall quantity of “core” water quality, benthic, sediment, and fish data; however, Regional Board staff, with concurrence by the USEPA and SCCWRP, believe the changes would result in a more comprehensive and informative program. The resources saved though reductions in core monitoring would be shifted to mandatory participation in regional monitoring efforts and special studies designed to investigate issues that are not addressed by the existing MRP.

As of ~~May 28~~ **June 4**, 2003, written comments have been received from the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club. **Responses are attached.**

LEGAL CONCERNS:

As this is a joint permit issued by this Regional Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), all written and oral testimony received up until the end of today’s hearing on the matter will be provided to USEPA for consideration prior to their final approval of Addendum No. 1.

SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTS:

1. City of San Diego Wastewater Facilities Map.
2. Tentative Addendum No. 1 to Order No. R9-2002-0025, NPDES Permit No. CA0107409.
3. Transmittal Letter dated May 9, 2003.
4. Notice of Public Hearing published in the San Diego Union-Tribune on May 9, 2003.
5. Copy of the existing MRP.
6. Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter comments dated May 27, 2003.
7. **Response to comments received through June 4, 2003.**

SIGNIFICANT  
CHANGES FROM  
CURRENT ORDER:

Of the changes proposed in tentative Addendum No. 1, the following could be considered significant:

1. Core monitoring includes ongoing influent, effluent, and receiving water monitoring. Significant changes to the core program include:
  - Shoreline microbiology (fecal and total coliform, enterococcus).
  - Reduction from 9 to 8 sites - 3 sites added, 4 deleted.

- Sample frequency increased to weekly all year (from weekly for 6 months, biweekly for 6 months).
  - Overall increase in effort.
  - Offshore water quality (overall reduction in effort).
    - New station grid with more sample sites.
    - Reduction in sampling frequency from monthly to quarterly.
    - Single bacteria indicator (*Enterococcus*) instead of three.
    - Overall reduction in effort.
  - Benthic Sediments and Macrofaunal Communities.
    - Reduction in number of samples per site.
    - Reduction in frequency from quarterly to semiannually.
    - Overall reduction in effort.
  - Demersal Fish and Invertebrate Communities (Trawls).
    - One trawl per site, elimination of replication.
    - Reduction in frequency from quarterly to semiannually for some sites.
    - Invertebrate composite biomass analysis dropped.
    - Overall reduction in effort.
  - Fish Tissue Contamination (Bioaccumulation).
    - Trends program sites (trawls) grouped into zones, focus shifted to species of ecological importance, only liver tissue analyzed.
    - Local seafood safety sites (rig fishing) grouped into zones, focus shifted to fish typically caught by public, only muscle tissue analyzed.
    - Overall reduction in effort.
2. Requirements for participation in the large scale surveys in the bight off southern California coordinated by SCCWRP (e.g. Bight'03, Bight'08, etc.).
  3. Requirements for special studies designed to address specific questions. Special studies for year 1 of the permit include:
    - Funding of an independent evaluation of the monitoring program. The evaluation shall also identify special project studies for future years of the permit.
    - Sediment mapping study
    - Participation in a satellite and aerial remote sensing program.

COMPLIANCE  
RECORD:

Since its adoption on April 10, 2003, there have been no violations of Order No. R9-2002-0025.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of tentative Addendum No. 1 to Order No. R9-2002-0025, NPDES Permit No. CA0107409.